

2023-24 Nonpoint Source Pollution Prevention Mini-grants for Conservation Districts

Mini-grant Amount	Conservation District	Project Title	Project Description
\$2,000	Allegheny	Municipal Engagement, Round 2	Municipal Public Works departments frequently conduct earth moving and stream clean-ups around their community. ACCD will build on the 2022-2023 municipal outreach project to provide an in-person field trip for our county's municipal crews, to ensure they know best practices and PA codes. This workshop has the ultimate goal of less sediment pollution in the streams.
\$2,000	Beaver	Stormwater Help for Homeowners	A workshop will be presented focused on watershed awareness, developing a plan to manage stormwater on one's property, and will include a stormwater BMP tour at the BCCD Environmental Center. Each participant will receive a free rain barrel and kit.
\$2,000	Berks	"Barrels and Beer" A Rain Barrel Workshop	The Berks County Conservation District will host a workshop at Saucony Creek Brewery to educate the public on nonpoint source pollution and stormwater management. Components to build and paint 25 rain barrels will be purchased with the mini-grant money and 24 of the 25 rain barrels will be distributed at the workshop for registered participants to install at home (one per household). One of the rain barrels and an informational sign will be installed at Saucony Creek Brewery, in Reading, to serve as a demonstration area and an educational opportunity for visitors.

\$2,000	Bucks	NPS Pollution Outreach and Education	Building on successes from the 2020-2021 Residential Stormwater Management project, BCCD will host another two workshops. The workshops will be based in largely urbanized portions of Lower Bucks County and target two distinct audiences: municipal representatives and single family home residents. The content will specifically address NPS pollution from improperly managed properties in dense suburban communities, watershed awareness themes such as “we all live downstream,” and the best management practices available to mitigate NPS pollution. In partnering with municipal officials and local landscape professionals, the District aims to promote diverse and cost effective solutions for NPS pollution, that residents can attempt by themselves and that municipal; officials can recommend to private landowners in their communities.
\$2,000	Carbon	Rain Barrels: A NPS Pollution Solution	Funds are being requested to help promote rain barrels as a NPS pollution solution. Area residents will attend (in person or virtual) an education program before being allowed to purchase a barrel at a nominal cost.
\$2,000	Chester	Annual Producer's Meeting	CCCD will host its annual Producer’s Meeting in spring/summer 2023. This meeting will provide non-point source pollution education to dozens of farmers and local stakeholders. This year, CCCD plans to showcase its BMP videos created and produced in 2022.

\$1,500	Clarion	Regenerative Agriculture, Farming Responsibly	A grazing field day will be hosted for the agricultural community, agency employees, and consultants. The focus of the day will be on regenerative agriculture including soil health improvement, rotational grazing, non-point source pollution reduction, and nutrient management. Attendees will listen to talks and then take a field tour to see Wilson Land & Cattle Co's grazing lands.
\$2,000	Clarion	Western PA Grazing Conference	This project supports the Western PA Grazing Conference. Speakers at the event include local farmers, agency personnel, and others from across the country that come to share their expertise with the grazing community. The conference is geared to promote sustainable grazing practices that improve soil health and protect water quality.
\$360	Clarion	No-Till Demonstration & Discussion	This project seeks to educate farmers in Clarion County on the effects of tilling on water quality and soil health and inform them about the benefits of no-till planting. We will educate them by having a demonstration on how to use the Clarion Conservation District's no-till planter, which is available for farmers in Clarion County to rent, to plant fall cover crops. We will then welcome the farmers to have an open discussion about no-till planting and encourage farmer's in the county who have rented our no-till planter to share their experience with it and answer questions that farmers who haven't tried it may have.

\$2,000	Columbia	Rain Barrel Workshop at Local Farm Market	The Columbia County Conservation District is partnering with Rohrbach's Farm Market and Bakery to host a rain barrel workshop for a general audience to educate the public about negative impacts of excessive stormwater runoff on local streams, and, ultimately, the Chesapeake Bay, as well as provide suggestions for minimizing runoff in their own backyard and other ways to combat non-point source pollution.
\$2,000	Cumberland	Lower Allen Township Rain Barrel Workshop	This project proposes to host a Rain Barrel workshop that will educate participants about nonpoint source pollution and how their activities impact water quality within their watershed and will promote the theme "We All Live Downstream" and will then include a hands-on activity that participants will be able to construct their own rain barrel.

\$2,000	Cumberland	Stuart Park Educational Sign & Workshop	This project proposes to install an educational sign with a brochure holder that describes restoration work that was installed through the Countywide Action Plan implementation funding in 2022. This sign will describe the importance of Riparian Buffers and stream restoration efforts and the role that native trees, shrubs, and wildflowers influence on reducing nonpoint source pollution. This project will also include a workshop at the park that will include presentations about nonpoint source pollution, local watersheds and water quality, and how landowners can reduce or prevent nonpoint source pollution and connect the theme "We All Live Downstream."
\$2,000	Elk	Rain Barrel Workshop	This project will provide 20 participants the opportunity to learn about stormwater stressors throughout watersheds and the actions homeowners can take to reduce stormwater impacts to local streams and rivers. Since stormwater can carry pollutants, stormwater can be a source of nonpoint source pollution. Participants will then be able to take home one 50 gallon rain barrel per household.
\$850	Elk	Spring Soil Testing Workshop	The Elk County Conservation District, in conjunction with NRCS, plan to host a workshop for local land owners regarding soil health, discussing proper soil nutrients, recommended fertilizer additions and methodology for reducing NPS pollution during fertilizer application and tilling/planting.
\$2,000	Erie	2023 Erie County Field to Forest Workshop	We are continually trying to educate landowners and farmers on the importance of using best management practices to conserve soil and ultimately reduce NPS pollution. This meeting will help to continue the education we have done in the past. We will concentrate on the synergy between agricultural fields and forest lands.

\$2,000	Erie	Litter Critter Outreach	Along with our growing Litter Critter website, the project will fund educational signage and an interactive Litter Critter game. These educational tools will be utilized at live events and to accompany an interactive mobile display for Erie County.
\$2,000	Franklin	Ag Education Event	Attendees will hear a farmer's perspective on the entire Ag BMP process, from the initial decision to install BMPs, to implementation and maintenance, to the on-farm benefits of the BMPs. Additionally, attendees will learn why the installation of BMPs is such an important tool in reducing nonpoint source pollution, getting Franklin County closer to meeting its nitrogen and phosphorus reduction goals in the Countywide Action Plan (CAP).
\$1,750	Fulton	Fulton County 2023 Ag Winter Meeting	This yearly meeting focuses on ways that farmers can reduce their nutrient and pesticide loads to local waterways. We have several speakers from Penn State Extension coming to talk about proper pesticide use, using integrated pest management along with pesticides, and how to properly use manure nutrients to reduce nutrient losses. All of these topics help educate farmers on reducing NPS pollution from their farm and reducing nutrient and sediment loads to the Bay.
\$2,000	Indiana	Non-Point Source Pollution and How You Can Help	Indiana County Conservation District will be hosting an educational event at Levity Brewing Pub. This will include an open discussion on harmful algal blooms and the consequences of non-point source pollution. Everyone who attends will walk away with a greater understanding of why it is important to keep clean water clean.

\$1,247	Juniata	Rooting for Trees	One Riparian Ranger volunteer training will be held at the East Juniata High School Riparian Buffer located along a small tributary of Cocolamus Creek in Fayette Township. The training provides the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Defining nonpoint source pollution (NPS) and the benefits of riparian and vegetative buffers in reducing NPS effects on watershed health • Instructing volunteers in installing and maintaining riparian buffers • Identifying invasive plants, wildlife, and maintenance issues that affect the health of riparian buffers. A riparian buffer interpretive sign will be installed in advance of the workshop to reinforce the training focal points and to provide watershed protection education to the general public.
\$2,000	Lawrence	Capture Water and Create Soil	This grant will provide 30 rain barrels to homeowners and education for Stormwater BMPs to implement around the landscape to lessen the negative impacts stormwater has on water quality within the watershed. Additional education will include rain barrel assembly & maintenance, NPS pollution and basics of watersheds.
\$2,000	Lebanon	2024 Lebanon County Rain Barrel Workshop: Water Quality 101	Participants will be educated on the topic of non-point source pollution. They will learn how it affects water quality and quantity and how we as homeowners can help minimize NPS pollution in and around our homes. Specifically, they will learn local sources of NPS pollution and how a rain barrel can be used as a measure to help reduce NPS pollution.

\$1,500	Lebanon	Conservation on the Ground: Dairy Edition	Funding will be used to host an agricultural field day showcasing conservation Best Management Practices (BMPs) that were installed on a local dairy operation using district CEG funds. The goal is to show producers real life examples of improvements to an operation and how to reduce the amount of untreated runoff traveling from their operation to surface and ground waters. It will also be used to connect members of the agricultural community with industry professionals to better understand what problems may be present on their property and programs and options to address them and formulate realistic solutions or alternatives to current management.
\$1,730	Lehigh	Proper Household Hazardous Waste Disposal Workshop	The Lehigh County Conservation District, in partnership with The City of Allentown, Lehigh County Authority, and Penn State Extension will carry out an educational workshop for Lehigh County residents on the proper disposal of household hazardous wastes to improve the water quality of our local watershed. Participants will be educated on the type of non-point source pollutants that are carried downstream during stormwater runoff events, and will learn about what NOT to dump down storm drains to minimize the amount of non-point source pollutants reaching our local waterways.
\$2,000	Lehigh	Stormwater Pollution Prevention Project	The Lehigh County Conservation District, in partnership with Lehigh County, will conduct a project at Cedar View Apartments; a low-income housing complex for Lehigh County residents older than 62 years of age and residents that are physically challenged. The project will include the installation of a rain garden that will collect stormwater runoff from impervious surfaces and a hands-on educational program where residents will learn about the importance of minimizing stormwater runoff and non-point source pollutants reaching our local waterways.

\$2,000	McKean	Water Quality Awareness Campaign	This campaign will implement a series of outreach events to provide participants with the knowledge and tools to implement practices to improve water quality in their watershed. Topics presented through outreach programs will help them to prevent non-point source pollution and protection of natural resources.
\$1,329	Monroe	Planning for Clean Water: Stormwater Planning and Management at the Municipal Level	Municipal officials will be taken on a tour of stormwater facilities in Monroe County, getting a firsthand view of stormwater best management practices. The purpose of this tour is to promote municipal stormwater planning as a means of preserving water quality and quantity within our watersheds. At the end of the tour, municipalities will have received a lesson in stormwater planning basics, the Stormwater Management Act of 1978 (Act 167) and stormwater planning's role in nonpoint source pollution reduction and prevention.

\$2,000	Montgomery	Montgomery County No-Till and Agricultural Conservation Education	<p>This project will provide agricultural education and outreach on non-point source pollution prevention topics using several education methods. A Manure and Pasture Management in-person event will be held to educate livestock owners on limited acreage how to best manage the land, space and resources they have while educating on the topic "We All Live Downstream" to create a holistic educational approach. An educational tour will occur in Montgomery County to showcase a native meadow planting and riparian buffer planting and provide adult education on non-point source pollution prevention topics and how landowners can implement these practices themselves. Lastly, a pasture planting field day will be hosted in partnership with Penn State to showcase the district-owned no-till drill and educate on conservation tillage, soil health, no-till pasture planting, and renovation topics.</p>
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\$1,883	Montgomery	Montgomery County NPS Pollution Prevention and Watershed Awareness	Montgomery County Conservation District will deliver two NPS pollution prevention and watershed awareness activities during the grant performance period: Presentation to Pennsylvania Master Naturalists and Tour of a Riparian Buffer "Food Forest."
\$1,470	Potter	Soil and Water Conservation in Your Community and Backyard	This project involves a two-part rain barrel and soil test kit workshop, which will take place at the newly established Potter County Community Garden. Participants will learn about their local watersheds, impairments, soil testing and sustainable fertilizer options, and non-point source pollution. Participants will then be invited for a tour of the Community Garden and it's array of corresponding conservation practices that have been implemented. An additional separate workshop will be held to reach out to landowners and watershed groups that will discuss stream corridor health. Topics of this workshop will include: riparian planting, streambank protection/restoration, and in-stream fish habitat.
\$1,200	Snyder	2024 Farmers Winter Meeting	The Snyder CCD annually holds a winter meeting where farmers learn about water quality topics such as soil health, techniques on how to remain in environmental compliance, and learn about possible BMPs and available water quality cost share/incentive programs.
\$2,000	Snyder	Soil Health Bucket Service & Meeting	The Snyder CCD, in cooperation with a local farmer, will hold one soil health event targeting farmers in which soil health, along with water quality and erosion control, will be discussed and demonstrated with BMPs such as cover cropping and no-tilling as well as long-term management thinking.

\$1,305	Tioga	Rainbarrel Workshop 2023	This project will get landowners interested in NPS pollution by providing them a simple BMP that will hopefully inspire them to learn more on the subject. The Rain Barrel will get people in the door, but they will be educated on NPS and other ways they can mitigate this form of pollution. Rain Barrels are a fun and creative way to capture excess run off from impermeable sources of runoff.
\$2,000	Union	Union County Regenerative Dairy Meeting	This district will offer an interactive presentation that will introduce trainees to several tools/resources that will help them 1) assess and better understand watershed, site, stream corridor and riparian buffer conditions, and 2) determine which Best Management Practices might be most appropriate for purposes of managing stormwater runoff, reducing soil erosion, and preventing Non-Point Source pollution within their watersheds and focus areas.
\$1,530	Washington	Washington County Outreach Meetings	The Washington CCD annually hosts events where farmers can learn about water quality topics such as soil health, environmental compliance, and available water quality cost share / incentive programs. The outreach events include a crop day meeting, soil health meeting, and a grazing meeting.
\$2,000	Westmoreland	Virtual Tour of Stormwater BMPs	This project will introduce stormwater Best Management Practices to the general public through a virtual tour of the Westmoreland Conservation District's Stormwater Trail. Several brief videos will be created and shared through social media and the District's website. Viewers will be directed to available resources, such as the Homeowner's Guide to Stormwater Management and the BMP Toolkit, so they can begin to install their own practices.

\$1,500	York	Legislative Informational Breakfast and BMP Tour	The York County Conservation District will host state representatives, state senators, and municipal officials for an informational breakfast and project tour. During the breakfast, the elected officials will learn about nonpoint source (NPS) pollution and how the District's programs implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) to address NPS pollution. Afterward, the elected officials will be invited to tour several District projects where BMPs have been installed.
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